

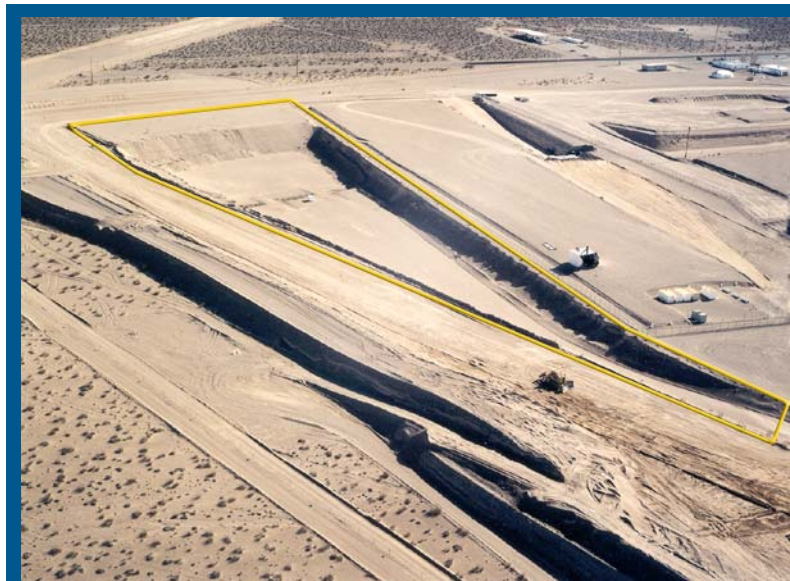
Mixed Low-Level Waste

...Acceptance Guidelines at the Nevada Test Site

Background

In February of 2000, the Record of Decision for the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement identified the Nevada Test Site as one of two national mixed low-level waste disposal sites for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex. In response, the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office began implementing a strategy to accept mixed low-level waste from DOE sites nationwide.

The strategy became reality in December 2005, when the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) reissued the Nevada Test Site Part B Permit which lifted the prohibition on accepting DOE mixed low-level waste generated outside the state of Nevada. In accordance with the Permit, the Nevada Site Office is limited to accepting no more than 20,000 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste and to permanently close the Nevada Test Site Mixed Waste Disposal Unit by December 2010 or sooner, if the volume capacity is reached prior to that time.



Nevada Test Site Mixed Waste Disposal Unit

Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal Activities

Since time and volume is limited, the Nevada Site Office Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program encourages generators to submit waste stream profiles without delay. Upon receipt of the profiles, Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program personnel examine waste stream documentation to ensure compliance with the Nevada Test Site Waste Acceptance Criteria. In addition to the documentation review, a minimum of five percent of the mixed low-level waste stream will undergo visual examination

conducted at the generator's site and/or using real-time radiography at the Nevada Test Site. Any waste that does not meet the acceptance criteria after undergoing verification will not be accepted.



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How Does a Generator Get Approval to Ship Waste?

Each mixed low-level waste generator must complete a series of steps prior to the first waste shipment. A key element is the development of a waste certification program to comply with waste acceptance criteria. Once the program is approved, waste stream profiles can be submitted for review and approval on a waste stream-specific basis. The approval process includes a comprehensive review of program documents, generator and treatment facility evaluations (i.e., audits, surveillances, and program reviews) and waste verification.

What Are the Acceptable Waste Forms?

Acceptable waste forms are those that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Land Disposal Restriction treatment standards. Examples of waste forms that ***will not be accepted*** are free liquids, biodegradable sorbents, and etiologic and chelating agents. Waste forms may include incinerator ash, stabilized waste, debris, macroencapsulated debris and lead, and soil. The Nevada Site Office has established real-time radiography capabilities to perform non-intrusive visual inspections of the waste containers. A minimum of five percent of all mixed low-level waste streams will undergo visual inspections at the generator sites and/or real-time radiography at the Nevada Test Site to verify that the waste form indicated on the shipping documents is consistent with the waste form received for disposal.

What Are the Packaging Requirements?

Typical U.S. Department of Transportation packaging to be accepted for disposal includes boxes measuring 4' x 4' x 7' or 4' x 2' x 7', 55-gallon drums, and cargo containers. Alternate packaging will be considered, but Nevada Test Site Disposal Operations personnel must be consulted prior to shipment to ensure the appropriate resources are available.

The Nevada Test Site plans to accept mixed low-level waste with the following EPA Hazardous Waste Numbers*:

D004 through D043;
F001 through F009, F039;
P001 through P205;
U001 through U249, U271, U278, U279, U280,
U328, U353, U359, U364, U367, U373, U387, U389,
U394, U395, U404.

***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Hazardous Waste Numbers are identified in 40 CFR 261 which is available at:**
<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/>

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